

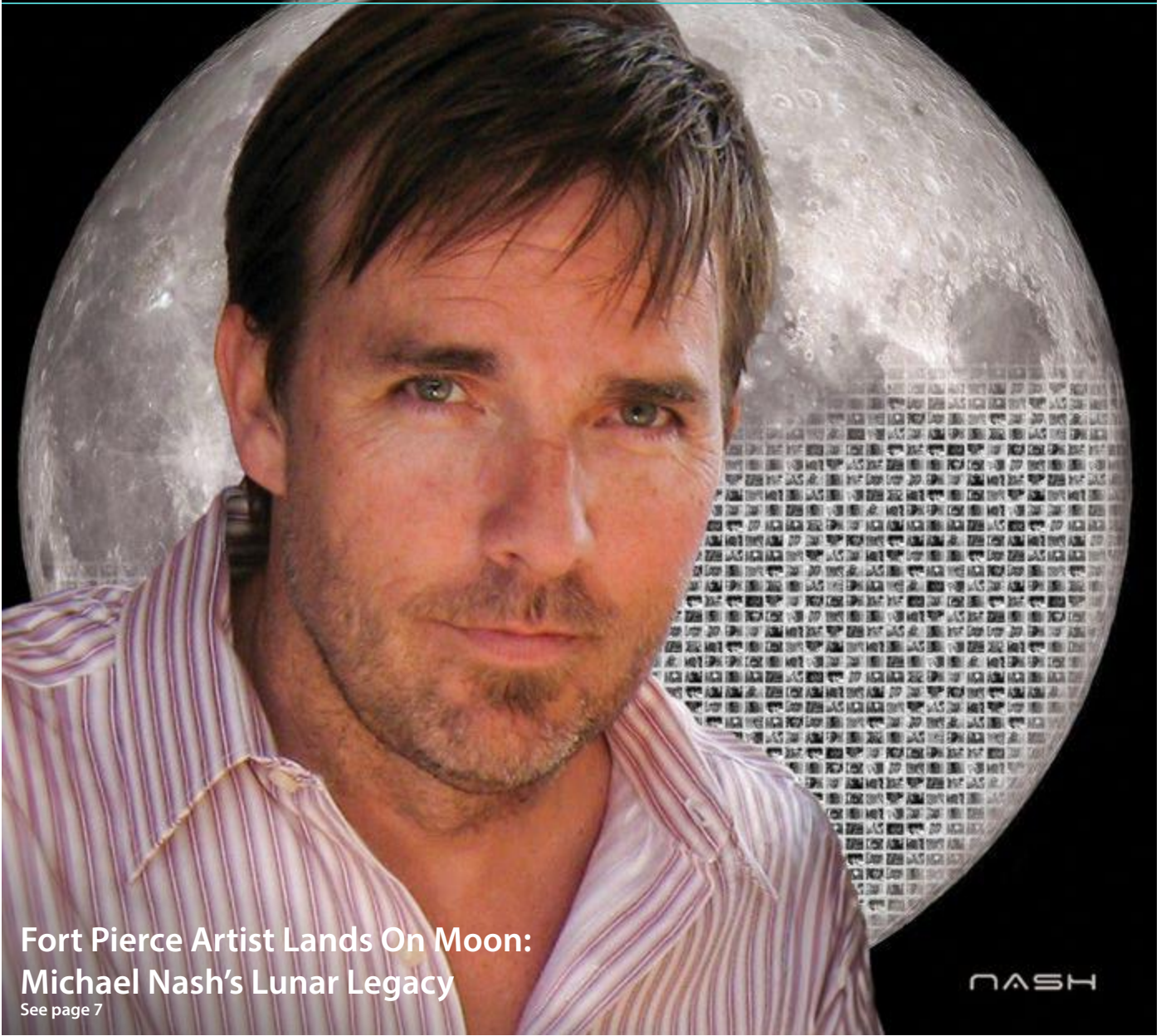


Volume 19, No. 10

May, 2024

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



Fort Pierce Artist Lands On Moon: Michael Nash's Lunar Legacy

See page 7

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Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News, Special Announcements, Complimentary Steamworks Coffeabar coffee, Orchid Island Juice, Breakfast Treats, and more!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Mother's Day, Ladies!

by Donna Sizemore



We have a lot to share with you this month and several events happening. Please be sure to read the cover article (Fort Pierce Artist Lands on Moon: Michael Nash's Lunar Legacy.) This is an incredible story centered around Michael Nash, a local Fort Pierce artist and filmmaker. Michael is part of a larger vision and mission focused on preserving our planet for future generations. The article delves into the importance of safeguarding the Earth and its climate.

While *Main Street Fort Pierce's* vision operates at a local level, there is a common thread: preservation. Last week, *Main Street* was actively involved in a project to honor and preserve the legacy of Edwin Binney. Spearheaded by the *Fort Pierce Art Club*, the event welcomed visitors from **Crayola Crayons**, paying homage to Edwin Binney—the inventor of **Crayola Crayons**. Binney not only enriched the colorful world of art but also held a vision for downtown Fort Pierce. His instrumental


role in opening the port and inlet for deep-water commerce in 1921 has left a lasting impact.

Additionally, Binney played a vital role in preventing the St. Lucie County Bank from collapsing during the Great Depression. Fort Pierce boasts a vibrant downtown area with a rich history dating back to the Binney days. The current generation has a unique opportunity to protect and preserve this legacy, along with the contributions of others who have played a significant role in Fort Pierce's preservation and the betterment of a brighter future.

Nash and Binney exemplify local visionaries who unite humanity through their shared commitment to a brighter tomorrow. Whether it's preserving our planet or enriching our community, their stories inspire us all.

Don't miss the vibrant display of colorful, painted 1-foot by 4-foot wooden crayons at the **River Walk Center**. Kudos to the *Fort Pierce Art Club*, *Main Street Fort Pierce*, Charlie Hayek, *Project Lift* and all of the talented artists. If you are looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift, please remember to shop local. Perhaps a gift certificate to a downtown boutique, restaurant and/or spa would put a smile on her face.

Main Street Fort Pierce invites you to attend the following events: *Talk Derby to Me*, May 4th; *Golf Tournament*, May 18th; and our annual *Main Street Fort Pierce Volunteer and Membership Appreciation Celebration*, May 22nd. Visit <https://mainstreetfortpiece.org/local-events-calendar> for more information. ❖



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Contributing Writers Joanne Blandford, Michael Howard, Mayor Linda Hudson, Anne Satterlee, Holly Theuns, Doris Tillman, Laura Louise Tingo
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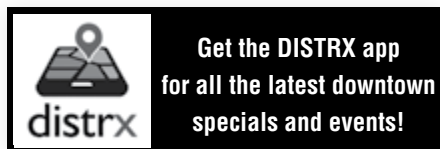
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Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpiece.org

Calendar

Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!



MONTHLY EVENTS

May 3, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **Riverdaws**; sponsored by **Cobbs Landing** and **Little Jims** restaurants; Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 4, Saturday: TALK DERBY TO ME KENTUCKY DERBY WATCH PARTY — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Historic Platts/Backus House at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue; 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org. (See page 23)

May 17, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; Sponsor — **Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 17, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

May 22, Wednesday: 36TH MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING — 5 to 7:00 p.m.; Open House at Historic Platts/Backus House at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue; 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org. (See page 13)

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op — rain or shine 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

Saturdays: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north side of the Downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, jazzsociety.org.

Saturdays: Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

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Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m.
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121 Tapas on the Water
facebook.com/121tapasonthewater

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& SUNRISE BLACK BOX**

772-461-4775 • sunrisetheatre.com
Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre — 7 to 10 p.m.; 460-5299; jazzsociety.org.

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429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Common Ground Vineyard Church; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893); 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum
772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795 • 2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society
772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672 • heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum
772-595-5845 • navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center
772-462-3474 • stlucieco.gov/marine_center

St. Lucie County Regional History Center
772-462-1795 • stlucieco.gov/history

MAY: SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

MAY 2: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 3: TWO DIFFERENT COLORED SHOES DAY

MAY 4: INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS DAY

MAY 4: NATIONAL ORANGE JUICE DAY

➔ MAY 5: CINCO DE MAYO

MAY 6: NATIONAL NURSES DAY

MAY 6: NATIONAL TOURIST APPRECIATION DAY

MAY 7: NATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY

MAY 8: GIVE SOMEONE A CUPCAKE DAY

MAY 9: LOST SOCK MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 10: NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS DAY

MAY 11: INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

MAY 11: MOTHER'S DAY ➔

MAY 15: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 16: NATIONAL BBQ DAY

MAY 17: NASCAR DAY

MAY 18: ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 23: WORLD TURTLE DAY

MAY 27: MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 29: NATIONAL ALLIGATOR DAY

Main Street Fort Pierce's Annual Golf Tournament

by Sue Dannahower

Experience the perfect start to your day with *Main Street Fort Pierce's Golf Tournament at Gator Trace Golf & Country Club* on Saturday, May 18. Join fellow golf enthusiasts for a round of golf while supporting the programs and events vital to our community.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. with a delightful continental breakfast to fuel your day. Tee off at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start, diving into a day filled with camaraderie and competition. Prizes await the longest drive and the top three teams.



Entry is \$100 per player or \$400 per team, inclusive of breakfast, lunch, and a goody bag. Additionally, engage in our putting contest for a chance to win fantastic prizes with a small donation.

Opportunities to showcase your business through sponsorships and tee signs are still available. Don't miss the chance to be part of this exciting event. Visit www.mainstreetfortpierce.org to register your team or contact us at 772-466-3880 to secure your spot as a sponsor. Start your day the right way, on the green with *Main Street Fort Pierce*. ❖

Journey: 450 Years of African American History at the Sunrise Theater



Hankerson Henry Productions Announces the Film Showing of "Journey: 450 Years of African American History" at the **Sunrise Theater** in Fort Pierce on Thursday, May 2, from 7:00 –9:00 p.m.

Derek Boyd Hankerson of **Hankerson Henry Productions** announces an evening of guest speakers followed by the film showing of "Journey: 450 Years of African American History." **Sunrise Theatre** concessions will be available.

In addition to Hankerson, presenters include Melanie Hayling George, a Fort Pierce native, daughter of Charlie Hayling, and niece of Dr. Robert Hayling. Dr. Hayling was the advisor to the NAACP during the Civil Rights movements in Florida. Former Fort Pierce Florida State Representative, Larry Lee, who founded *Lincoln Park Main Street*, will also be a presenter.

Hankerson, whose family hails from St. Augustine, is a filmmaker, social scientist, and Florida Atlantic University faculty

member. His presentation will show how the film, the city of Fort Pierce, the Hayling's family, and his own family's genealogy connect to Florida, especially St. Augustine, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. Hankerson's great aunt was the Dean of Girls at Florida Memorial College in St. Augustine and built her 12-room Victorian home on Bridge Street in 1930. She shared here knowledge and wealth of with Hankerson, her great nephew, who also co-produced a 30-minute documentary on St. Augustine's role in the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

When asked about the "450 Years" film, Mr. Hankerson stated, "I feel this film is one of my greatest works on the accurate account of how and why Former President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the civil rights act after seeing the events that occurred in St. Augustine led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Robert Hayling, and others."

Tickets will be available on or after April 10, 2024. They can be purchased online for \$40 at the **Sunrise Theatre** or at the door. ❖

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Journey: 450 Years of African American Experience



May 2, 2024 | 7 p.m.
Sunrise Theatre, Fort Pierce

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The Cake Lady Custom Cakes Summer Cupcake Camp

by Staci Dunn, The Cake Lady Custom Cakes

Cupcake camp is a fun-filled, week long program where participants learn various cake decorating skills used by professional cake artists. Activities include but are not limited to decorating cupcakes each day using various professional techniques. Participants will learn to decorate cupcakes using buttercream, fondant and sugar paste techniques. Cupcakes will be baked fresh by staff so students will not be baking.

Monday through Thursday students decorate cupcakes; on Friday students design and decorate a small cake. Participants keep what they create each day. All materials are included. Space is limited.

Participants ages 5 to 15 are invited. **The Cake Lady Custom Cakes** is located at 205 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce; phone 772-242-8128.

Camp hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The 2024 camp dates are as follows: June 3–7, June 10–14, June 17–21, June 24–28, July 8–12, July 15–19, July 22–26, July 29–August 2, and August 5–9.

The cost is \$195 per week, all inclusive, with an early registration discount. Register before May 1, 2024 for a reduced rate of \$165 per week.

For more information or to register, please call 772-242-8128 or visit www.thecakeladybakes.com. ❖



City of Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson is our 2024 Home Rule Hero

Mayor Linda Hudson of the *City of Fort Pierce* was recently honored with the **2024 Home Rule Hero Award** by the Florida League of Cities (FLC), a collective voice for municipal governments in Florida. This recognition acknowledges Mayor Hudson's dedication and advocacy during the 2024 Legislative Session. She worked diligently to champion local decision-making, safeguard the Home Rule powers of Florida's municipalities, and advance the League's legislative agenda.

Casey Cook, Chief of Legislative Affairs at FLC, highlighted the significant impact of local officials like Mayor Hudson who passionately advocated for preserving local governance during the legislative session. The League and its legislative team expressed gratitude for the exemplary service of **Home Rule Heroes** like Mayor Hudson, emphasizing their crucial role in defending local decision-making. **Home Rule Heroes**, distinguished for their




active engagement, expertise, and effectiveness, are fervent advocates for protecting local governance. Throughout the 2024 Legislative Session, these individuals steadfastly represented their communities' interests, contributing valuable local perspectives to legislative discussions.

"Mayor Hudson, congratulations on this well-deserved honor! Your unwavering commitment to Fort Pierce and your advocacy for *Home Rule* has made a significant difference. Thank you for your dedication and service to our community." Nick Mimms, City Manager. ❖



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Ecology 101: Habitat and Niche

by John D. Pinsof, Ph.D.

In nature, any given species will interact with many other species living in the same area as well as participate in exchanging a variety of simple materials between themselves and their environment. The interactions taking place between different species, such as competition, symbiosis, and predation, fall under the umbrella of community ecology. Through breathing, eating, and waste elimination, these same organisms take in and release chemicals (ex: water, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen) from their bodies throughout their lifetimes. For example, humans breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. By factoring in the complexities of these chemicals cycling in and out of living organisms, we thus bump ourselves up into a larger framework of study called ecosystem ecology. A main topic within both community and ecosystem ecology is learning where individual species live and the reasons why they are able to survive and reproduce.

The habitat of a species is defined as the location or physical setting in which it lives. For example, a habitat might be a forest floor, a slow meandering stream, a rocky mountaintop, or the shoreline of the ocean. Some species show habitat selection when they gravitate to a particular subset of the larger habitat. From a functional point of view, all species have a niche, the job or duties they perform within the habitat. There is a wide variety of roles that organisms fill, such as being a top carnivore (ex: lionfish), a herbivore (ex: manatee), photosynthesizer (ex: seagrass), or decomposer (ex: bacteria and fungi).



Habitats and niche preferences can be quite different for organisms that undergo major physical changes within their lifetime. For insect species undergoing metamorphosis within their life cycle, we know that caterpillars form a cocoon and later emerge as a butterfly. As it turns out, the caterpillar and butterfly consume different foods (different niche) and live in different locations (different habitats). This is beneficial to the species as it reduces competition between the larval and adult

forms. On the other hand, the newly hatched and juveniles of many game fish live in protected, low energy mangrove habitats prior to growing larger and entering more open and energetic waters. Here, the two age groups of a single species have different habitats and niches. The *Indian River Lagoon* is a perfect spot to kayak and experience both of these relatively unspoiled areas.

One of the greatest threats to the planet is the vast reduction and/or outright destruction of habitats by human activities across both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Habitat loss has

been brought about by such factors as agriculture, livestock, mining, urban development, and the pollution generated by these and other industries. It is estimated that about 15 million acres of tropical forest are being cleared annually, a rate that would completely eliminate the world's remaining tropical forests in 175 years. Unfortunately, if a species is unable to move to or adapt to a new habitat, it may become extinct. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has estimated that habitat loss was a contributing factor in the loss of 73% of the species that have become extinct in the last few hundred years.

Learn more about the ecology of the *Indian River Lagoon* and its inhabitants at the **Manatee Center** located at 480 N. Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce or find us online at www.ManateeEducationCenter.org. ❖



The Manatee Center May Events

Friday, May 10 at 12:00 p.m.
Alligators, Pythons Reptiles, Oh My!

Lunch & Learn — Presented by **Hobe Sound Nature Center**. Bring a lunch and bring a friend! This event will be hosted by **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** at 700 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. Contact Elyse Geraghty, Education Coordinator, geraghty@fpua.com.
Free Event.

Thursday, May 16 at 10 a.m.
ManaTales Storytime, with Ms. Cindi

Nurture your child's natural curiosity about nature through this Mommy and Me style program. Fun for preschoolers.

Wednesday, May 29, All Day
FREE Admission Day

Come Celebrate the Start of *Main Street Fort Pierce's* 36th Year!

The 2024–2025 *Main Street Fort Pierce Annual Meeting* celebration, marking the beginning its 36th year, will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd. It's a time to reflect on the community impact and mission of MSFP and to set the stage for another year of making a difference in Fort Pierce.

Save the Date: Wednesday, May 22nd

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue,
Historic Downtown Fort Pierce



The public is cordially invited to be part of this momentous occasion, surrounded by the charm of historic downtown Fort Pierce. It's not just a meeting — it's a celebration of the vibrant spirit of this community.

Main Street Fort Pierce is grateful of the generosity of our supporters and partners — grants and sponsorships of local businesses and/or valuable time and contributions from residents and visitors. All these efforts together have helped transform downtown Fort Pierce back into the thriving hub of activity, culture, and community pride that it had been since its incorporation over a century ago. The *Main Street Fort Pierce Annual Meeting* is an event to express the heartfelt gratitude for the community's support throughout the year.

There will be food and beverages along with music from the *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society*. All are welcome to this celebration! ❖



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One Year In: FPUA Launches Wastewater Wednesdays to Share Construction Progress on the New Sewer Treatment Plant

by Fort Pierce Utilities Authority



Over a year ago, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) began construction of the long-awaited sewer treatment plant on Energy Lane – the plant that, after over two decades of debates and planning and approvals, is finally becoming a reality. This one-year milestone is celebrated with updates from the FPUA Board Chair Dr. Barbara M. Bennett, photos, and a new Social Media and sustainablesewer.net blog featured named *Wastewater Wednesdays*.

“The new sewer treatment plant is a forward-thinking project enhancing sustainability and community-centered service in Fort Pierce,” Dr. Barbara M. Bennett, FPUA Board Chair said. “It is located in an industrial area, far away from the neighborhoods that we know and love; far away from the neighborhoods where our kids play and learn outdoors. During my time on the FPUA Board, I’ve seen first-hand how Fort Pierce’s municipal utilities are the backbone of our community’s commerce, education, medical care, public services, livelihood and well-being. Sustainable, reliable and affordable utility services are key to empowering underserved

communities, and they’re essential for continued growth and expansion of our community.”

Dr. Bennett champions this project as a native of Fort Pierce and an elementary school teacher at Francis K. Sweet Elementary School in addition to serving as chair of the FPUA Board. She is a highly engaged and devoted community member, helping those in need and maintaining leadership roles as a co-pastor at *Yahweh’s Hands On Ministry, Inc.*, Chairperson of *Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sakes* at Francis K. Sweet, Chairperson for Liberty Truth & Deliverance Eloquence Department, Chairperson and Founder of *New Horizons Gospel Concert*, Secretary for her local Homeowners Association, and more.

Dr. Bennett was also an early champion for pursuing grants as a funding opportunity for this project. FPUA’s new in-house grants development team successfully secured \$21 million of state and federal funding toward this project in the first year, with an additional \$67,600,000 proposals pending as of April 2024. Funds have been received with support from the *Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida* program and appropriations sponsored by our local and state representatives at the State and Federal levels.

“These funds have been instrumental in making our vision a reality, and we hope you will join us in extending our sincerest gratitude to these organizations and individuals,” continued Dr. Bennett.

Last month, in celebration of the one-year anniversary, FPUA launched a Social Media and Blog-Style webpage to provide weekly updates on construction progress of the new plant. The page provides updates for those with a growing interest in the project’s progress and provides an avenue for sharing our growing collection of progress photos.

The weekly photo updates show the substantial progress that has been made in the past year including significant site preparation work, such as land clearing and fill, excavation of stormwater and process ponds, and final site grading of the future plant equipment structures. Recent photos show progress from the first quarter of 2024, including field crews constructing buildings, treatment tanks, stormwater and process ponds, and deep injection wells. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2025.

Read Dr. Bennett’s full update in the April 2024 bill insert at: www.FPUA.com/bill-inserts. Keep up to date on construction progress at: <https://www.sustainablesewer.net/wastewaterwednesdays> or by following FPUA on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/TeamFPUA. ❖



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FPYC Foundation *Chart Your Course – Navigating Your Future*

by Robynn Holland, Chair, FPYC Foundation



Ever play “Rock, Paper, Scissors” with a commercial diver, or hold a fishing rod or get in a boat for the first time or hear about the adventures of a member of the United States Coast Guard? This is what approximately 100 students from four schools in St. Lucie Public Schools did through the generosity of **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** members, multiple sponsors, volunteers, and maritime and marine repre-

sentatives. A collaboration of the **FPYC Foundation**, *St. Lucie Schools*, and the *City of Fort Pierce*, the goals of **Chart Your Course** are: introduce students to marine and maritime careers, provide students with information about jobs on or near the water, and provide a unique education experience for students.

On Thursday, February 22, students from St. Lucie Centennial West High, Westwood Academy, Lincoln Park Academy middle school, Dan McCarty middle school and *Project Lift* had the opportunity to explore and discover jobs and careers in the marine and maritime industry right here in Fort Pierce and along the Treasure Coast.

Through discovery and exploration students learned many things including how the *Fort Pierce Police Department Marine Unit* helps patrol the waters, how **Towboat US** helps aid and rescue boaters in need and how the **Freedom Boat Club** makes boating available to those who do not want the upkeep of their own boats. Want to know how to map the shoreline? Ask **SurvTech** who uses drones for that purpose. Interested in a career in boat repair, perhaps learning how to sand and paint a boat? **Shearwater Marine** in Fort Pierce is a great place to start. Have fishing as a passion and want to turn it into a career? Ask Captain Bo Samuel just how he did that with **Pullin Drag Fishing Charters**. This is but a small sample of what students experienced at the FPYC and **River Walk Center**.

Interested in careers on or near the water? Approximately 20 marine and maritime industries shared their passions with students as they visited, listened, and participated in various activities. They included **Chapman School of Seamanship**, **Derecktor**, **Ecological Associates, Inc.**, *FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Instruction UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County/ Florida Seat Grant*, **Fort Pierce City Marina**, *Fort Pierce Police Department Marine Unit*, **Fort Pierce Freedom Boat Club**, *Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast*, **Pullin’ Drag Charter Fishing**, **Pursuit**, **Shearwater Marine**, *St. Lucie Director of Port, Inlet and Beaches*, **Summerlin’s Marine Construction**, **SurvTech Solutions**, **Towboat US**, **Underwater Engineering Service, Inc.**, and the *United States Coast Guard*.



And without sponsors, the day would not have been possible. A sincere thank you to the: **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, Robynn and Steve Holland, *City of Fort Pierce*, **Fort Pierce City Marina**, **Derecktor**, Diane and Ed Hyer, Ginny and Bob Harbison, *Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast*, *Project Lift*, Ruth and Steve Jaroski, St. Lucie Public Schools, Susan Sohni and Karen Murphy, **UPS Store # 4314 St. James Place** – Jason Hendry, Anonymous, Barbara Rose, **Boat Owners Warehouse**, Diane and Mitch Korbey, **Fin and Foil**, **Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice**, **Shearwater Marine**, Sue and Ron Miller, and **Wawa**.



For more photos of the day go to <https://www.fortpierceyachtclub.com/> and click on photos, then **Chart Your Course**. You may also view some of the actual day from the *2024 Chart Your Course* video produced by Steve Devlin, WLX_TV, Media Services, St. Lucie Public Schools, link: <https://youtu.be/3fwXer0uOSo>.



It was a great day in Fort Pierce. We love The Fort! ❖



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An Interview with

Joanne Blandford

Editor, Main Street Focus
Main Street Fort Pierce Board Member

- *Name:* Joanne Blandford
- *Place of Birth:* Fort Pierce (4th generation)
- *Year you moved to the area:* Born and raised
- *Significant other, spouse, children, pets:* Husband, Joe, and children — Adam, Connor & Finley
- *High School / Military Service:* 1994 graduate of Lincoln Park Academy, IRCC (now IRSC), and University of Central Florida
- *Degrees & certifications:* B.S. Business Administration: Accounting
- *Career Path:* **Main Street Fort Pierce** Marketing/Event Coordinator & Accounting; *Main Street Focus* Editor (current); Lynn Britt, C.P.A., Forensic Accountant; City of Parkland, Accountant; **Fly the Whale**, Accountant (current)
- *Hobbies:* Gardening, researching history, reading, family activities
- *What year did you become a Main Street board member:* 2017
- *What attracted you to become involved with Main Street Fort Pierce?* It was my first job after college in 1999. I learned so much about community redevelopment and how amazing things can happen when local organizations and government work together. At the time, efforts that had been in the works for many years were coming together to transform downtown Fort Pierce. It was a wonderful time to be working at **Main Street** and watching this revitalization take place.
- *What is your favorite project/event that Main Street Fort Pierce has accomplished and or have been a part of?* The restoration of the **Sunrise Theatre**. You can build a modern performing arts building but it will never have character of

a historic theatre where generations of people (including my own family) have sat and enjoyed a performance. It is also a great deal more expensive to build from scratch rather than restoring a solidly built building and retrofitting it for modern times. It was so exciting to be a part of the multiple meetings, planning sessions, fundraising events, and then — to begin to see the progression of all of this planning come to fruition, step-by-step. A favorite memory was the day when the paint specialist carefully peeled away layers of paint to recover the original paint schematics and the Koblegard crest that is now visible on either side of the stage. Another exciting day was when the custom-made re-creation of the original marquee arrived and was mounted. The restoration of the **Sunrise Theatre** played a major role in further investment in Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County. It was an amazing experience to be part of this process.

- *What is a favorite memory about downtown Fort Pierce?* My favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce took place during the City's *Centennial Celebration* in February 2001. Along with **Main Street** director, Doris Tillman, the *Main Street Marketing & Events* coordinator at the time was Linette Trabulsy. She served as the committee chairwoman for the *Centennial Celebration* committee. It was a time when the community really came together to make this event spectacular. Corporations, community organizations, nonprofits, government officials, and many others all played key roles in each of the many special activities leading up to the actual Centennial Event. The *Centennial Celebration* event had many moving parts, and it went off without a hitch because of all the wonderful partnerships that took place. It was a very special time filled with community pride and cooperation.

- *What is one of your favorite things to do downtown and/or what is something you would recommend for visitors and guest to do in downtown?* When my kids were younger, we would visit the library, feed the fish in the marina, visit the **Manatee Center** or the **Backus Gallery**, get ice cream or a cupcake, and play in the *Veteran's Memorial Park*. When I can get away to shop, I enjoy how personable the business owners are. I try to do most of my Christmas shopping downtown and encourage everyone to consider downtown businesses as their first stop when they need a special, personalized gift, etc. I also love going to the **Farmer's Market** and attending other events that take place downtown.

- *What is your hope/wish for the future of downtown?* I wish the spirit of the cooperation I mentioned above during the centennial committee would be one that resides in all of us all the time. It takes all of us pitching in together to invest in our community. From small contributions like picking up a stray piece of trash to volunteering with one of the many community organizations or keeping and investing money locally, we all play a part in making Fort Pierce a special place to live and visit. ❖



Downtown Farmers Market Supports Local Agriculture

Did you know that not all the commerce happening downtown near the waterfront on a Saturday morning is part of the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market**? The market was started for the purpose of giving local agriculture producers an outlet for selling their products. Over the years, the market has stayed true to this focus, but it hasn't always been easy.

We have some great local agriculture artisans that make fascinating products. Some of them are food related, like **Broken Plow**, who sells milled grains along with the produce they grow. Or our local honey makers, **Holman House** and **Grewell Apiary**, who provide unique flavors along with a little bee knowledge if you ask them. Another one of our produce vendors, **Aunt Zorada Farms**, always has something unique to bring you in and friendly suggestions that entice you to buy more than you thought you needed. Just to round out the mix, we have **Wicked Good Spices** selling creative blends of spices, but she'll share her knowledge of the benefits of those different spices with you for free.

Some of our food vendors go the extra mile of making the meal for you right there one sight, and you will find some of the best food in town. **Anita's Guacamole** makes it fresh for you to taste and take home. **Seaside Smoothies** blends their goodness right in front of your eyes. And who can resist the aroma of **Tony's Gyros** when you walk by? It makes you want lunch for breakfast and why not?

Some agriculture products are not made for us to eat but we can still include them in our farmer's market. We have food products for our pets from **Dog Days Barkery** who supplies a wide variety of flavored dog treats. The **Lavendar Lady** offers up a dainty mix of methods for enjoying the benefits of that special herb, from oils to creams to sachets. Plus, if you are looking for a colorful, quality gift for the plant lover in your life, stop by **Chong Smith Plants** to see what's thriving at her booth.

As I mentioned, not all artisans fit the focus of the **Downtown Farmers Market**. Across the parking lot from our Market on the waterfront you'll find another group of vendors downtown. That in fact is **The Jazz Market**, hosted by the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**. They do a great job of offering space for local artisans and crafters to showcase their wares. The two markets are a great complement to each other and together have been promoting entrepreneurship and creativity for over two decades.

If you are curious about who's providing the music this week, which non-profit will be featured this week, or what new vendor may be joining us, check out the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market** social media, Instagram or Facebook. You can also learn more about our Market at <https://fortpiercefarmersmarket.com>. So, when you come to **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market**, be sure to take advantage of all there is to offer, *it's a Saturday morning tradition!* ❖



Get Ready to "Talk Derby to Me"!

Join us for the ultimate Kentucky Derby Watch Party at the historical Backus House! Date – May 4th 2024; Time – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Location – Backus House, 122 AE Backus Avenue in Fort Pierce.

Free entry for all guests, but you must be 21 or older to attend. Dress your Sunday best and don your finest Derby hat to enter our Hat Contest—prizes await the most stylish and creative hats. Plus, don't miss your chance to win big with our 50/50 raffle! Enjoy delicious bites from the food truck and refreshing drinks available for purchase as you soak up the excitement of the horse race festivities. Get ready for an unforgettable day of fun, fashion, and horse racing—see you there!

All proceeds will go back to the restoration of the historical Backus House. #TalkDerbyToMe #KentuckyDerbyWatchParty #BackusHouse #DerbyHatContest #FoodTruckFun #HorseRacingFestivities #MainStreetFortPierce.



Veteran Banker Tenaya Moulton to Manage Marine Bank's Fort Pierce Location

Marine Bank has announced that Tenaya Moulton has joined the Bank and will manage the Fort Pierce banking center located in the Seaway Plaza at 600 N. US Highway 1. The current Fort Pierce manager, Melissa Montanez, will transition to the Bank's Vero Beachside headquarters in mid-February.

During her 18-year banking career, Moulton has held many customer-focused positions including management, underwriting and sales. She has been networking in St. Lucie County for many years and currently serves in a leadership position with the *Fort Pierce Women's Club*. She has also been a *St. Lucie County Chamber* ambassador for seven years and is a graduate of *Chamber's Leadership Class 38*.

"Tenaya's familiarity with St. Lucie County's people, businesses and organizations combined with her relationship building skills make her a perfect fit for **Marine Bank**," said Bill Penney, president and CEO of **Marine Bank**. "She will be a tremendous asset in helping us communicate our exceptional customer service and other differentiators to an important market for the Bank." **Marine Bank**, the only community bank headquartered in Central East Coast

Florida, opened its Fort Pierce banking center in July of 2023.

About Marine Bank. **Marine Bank** was chartered in 1997 and has \$636 million in assets as of December 31, 2024, with five banking centers in Vero Beach, Sebastian, Melbourne, and Fort Pierce, and a commercial and residential lending center in Port St. Lucie. As the only community bank headquartered in Indian River County, the Bank has a strong interest in helping our residents and businesses prosper. **Marine Bank** has earned the coveted 4-Star Excellent rating from *Bauer Financial*, the nation's premier bank rating firm. Based on employee feedback, the Bank has been Certified™ by Great Place to Work® the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience, and the leadership behaviors for two consecutive years. The bank has been named among the top extraordinary banks in the United States by *The Institute for Extraordinary Banking* for its commitment to strong community banking. The Bank is an active community supporter, providing over \$200,000 to more than 125 local non-profit organizations in the market over the last five years. For more information, visit the website at www.marinebank.bank. ❖




Nancy Arledge
Vice President
Branch Manager
NMLS #572813

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An Interview with *Steve A Holland* Main Street Fort Pierce Board Member



Robynn & Steve Holland

- **Name:** Steve A. Holland
- **Place of Birth:** Sumter, SC
- **Year you moved to the area:** August 2020 to take care of elderly relatives
- **Significant other, spouse, children, pets:** Robynn Holland, Daughter, Jennifer Fensley, Certified Financial Planner with CapSouth Wealth Management; Son, Daniel Holland, HR with Metrolina Greenhouse
- **High School / Military Service:** Graduated from West Florence High School in 1975. BA in History from Francis Marion University in 1984, MS in Human Resources Management from Troy University in 2004. Served 22.5 years in the military. Four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 18.5 years in the U.S. Army. Served in positions such as Battery Commander, Operations Officer, and Inspector General. Served in Japan, Russia, the Netherlands, Germany, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Qatar. Retired as a Major in the U.S. Army in September 2002.
- **Degrees & certifications:** BA in History, MS in Human Resources Management, Certified in Lecotora Online Learning, Adobe Webex Online Presentation, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access
- **Career Path:** Marine Security Guard, Battery Fire Direction Officer, Battalion Ammunition Officer, Battery Executive Officer and Platoon Leader, Battalion Fire Direction Officer, Battalion Motor Officer, Battalion Fire Support Officer, Battery Commander A Battery, 77th Field Artillery, 1st Battalion 7th Cavalry, Associate Professor of Military Science, Auburn University Montgomery, Modeling and Simulations Officer and Instructor, Operations Officer, Inspector General, 3rd US Army. Emergency Management Specialist with Centers

for Disease Control (CDC), Training Officer, Emergency Response Team Lead with for Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

- **Hobbies:** Motorcycles, Traveling, Scuba Diving, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, avid College Football fan and NASCAR fan, occasional golfer

- **Career accomplishments, community awards:** Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon. Public Health Preparedness Award for Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for actions and deployments to Hurricane Katrina (2005), Hurricane Harvey (2017), Hurricane Irma (2017, Hurricane Maria (2017) and the 2015-2016 Ebola Response.

- **Any other local/national organizations you are members of?** **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**

- **What year did you become a Main Street board member:** May, 2023

- **What attracted you to become involved with Main Street Fort Pierce?** Got involved with *Main Street Fort Pierce* because of their association with the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and my wife's duties as the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** Community Liaison.

- **What is your favorite project/event that Main Street Fort Pierce has accomplished and or have been a part of?** The annual *Historical Ghost Walk*. For two years I have played the role of Steamboat Captain Steve Bravo and once, I played the role of Postmaster Jim Paine.

- **What is a favorite memory about downtown Fort Pierce?** Friday Fest, Saturday Farmers Market and Marina Square Lights during the Christmas Season.
- **What is one of your favorite things to do downtown and/or what is something you would recommend for visitors and guests to do in downtown?** The Restaurants. There are so many fine

restaurants to choose from for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

- **What is your hope/wish for the future of downtown Fort Pierce?** I hope Fort Pierce will continue to be a great place to come and eat and socialize and I hope Fort Pierce, as it grows, can resist over development and keep it's small to mid-size town feel.



Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members

Sausage English Muffins
from Kelly Johnson,
wife of board member, Jeremiah Johnson

- 1 lb. spicy Jimmy Dean sausage
- 2 jars Kraft Old English Spread
- 1 package Bays Original English muffins

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Brown the sausage.
- Mix the cheese in the cooked sausage, allow it to cook for 2 minutes.
- Split the English Muffins on a baking sheet.
- Divide the sausage and cheese mixture on all the English muffins, spread mixture to cover each one.
- Bake for 25 minutes. ❖





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VERO BEACH - FORT PIERCE

May Fishing Report: Salty Groceries!

by Captain Bo Samuel

The calmer winds and milder temperatures of May have us planning to target big kingfish and mahi mahi. Plus, grouper season opens May 1st! This time of year, we see an increase of bait in the area which means big fish are sure to follow and when you find the bait, you find the fish! Inshore, offshore, the inlet, the river, and the lagoon all offer a spectacular variety of species and habitats which is why our Treasure Coast waters are simply the best for putting fish on the dinner table.

Offshore, I suggest a slow troll with fresh ballyhoo, naked or skirted, at about 80 feet or more when fishing for mahi, also called dolphinfish. Weed lines and floating debris are good places to find mahi hiding out and when you find one, a school should be close by. This month is also a great time to target big kingfish that are moving back up the beach in 90 to 120 feet of water. Mullet, threadfins, or blue runners on a slow troll are best choices to put kings on deck. You are allowed to catch kingfish all year with a limit of two per angler per day and they must be at least 24" to the fork.

As more bait enters the river, it's generally a productive time to fish the grass flats and oyster beds for red drum and snook. Red drum have been plentiful lately and will provide some great action as they are known for their strength and stamina. The snook bite has been on fire with all sizes being hooked and plenty of slots in the mix. You can get in on the snook action by using live bait like mullet, pilchards, and threadfin.



A tight drag will help handle the impressive fight from these popular but wily fish that are very good at cutting line on any nearby structure. Snook remain in season until June 1st.

Our *Fishy Photo of the Month* is a super 18-inch lane snapper caught on live shrimp by awesome angler Jack Curley. Way to fish, Jack!

Whether cooking blackened grouper fillets, snapper tacos, or a full seafood fest, it doesn't get any better than enjoying your own fresh, salty groceries. I've been fishing these local waters all my life and truly enjoy sharing the fun with my charter guests. Let me know when you're ready with that salty grocery list! Remember

DeBrooks Fishing Corner has a great selection of tackle and **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** has great food, great servers, and great music. For salty groceries in the bag, you need to be *Pullin Drag!* ❖

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